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CLA Final Report

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Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA) Instructor's Assessment Report

Thank you for participating in the project using the CLA in the Classroom. We are conducting this project in conjunction with our participation in a national study, coordinated by the Council for Aid to Education and funded in part by the Lumina Foundation, that is studying the development of students' writing, analytical reasoning, and critical thinking skills in higher education institutions. The Carnegie Corporation provided us with a mini-grant to help determine the extent to which efforts like "CLA in the Classroom" can make a positive difference in student learning outcomes.

In recent months our CLA project has taken on increased importance for several important reasons.

1. The initial funding from the Carnegie Corporation was intended to support a pilot project to determine feasibility of a much more comprehensive grant project. The information you provide in your reports will provide a basis for seeking additional grant funding. **Your reports will be a very important component of our follow-up grant proposal.**
2. We are planning an event at the end of the academic year to give faculty the opportunity to report on their efforts to assess student learning outcomes. **I hope at least a few of the CLA project participants will be willing to report to the entire faculty.**
3. Our investment of time and resources to this project gives us the opportunity to take a leading role in the national discussion of student learning outcomes. The reports that you post in the Chesnutt Library Digital Commons will become a useful resource for colleagues throughout the nation.
4. As part of our participation in the Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA), we are now posting our College Portrait on line. You will see that our CLA scores are part of this portrait. <http://www.uncfsu.edu/ir/College%20Portrait%202007.pdf> Since the CLA results will be an object of public scrutiny, it is important that we do all that is possible to strengthen our students' performance.

In view of the increased importance of our CLA project, your individual reports are very important to our ongoing efforts to improve student learning at FSU.

To receive the remainder of your payment, you must submit the following to Mr. Wes Brown (Barber Building, Room 232; wkbrown01@uncfsu.edu):

- Your written report prepared according to the guidelines below
- A copy of your performance task with all related documents
- A list of students with Banner ID and their score on the test. (We will NOT report individual grades beyond the campus.)
- Confirmation that you have posted your report in the Chesnutt Library Digital Commons.
- A timesheet – Mr. Brown will provide a template. (You are each due to be paid an additional \$800; the timesheet will reflect this payment due.) Please note that I will need to approve your report before I authorize payment.

Your report is due as soon as possible, but no later than May 1, 2009

CLA Project Report

(Please answer each item; 3.c. is optional.)

1. Course information
 - a. In what course(s) did you administer your CLA performance task?
 - b. Please indicate if the majority of students enrolled in this class are freshmen, sophomores, juniors, or seniors.
2. Performance task
 - a. What was the task?
 - b. Describe the documents you included in the task. Why did you choose these specific documents?
 - c. To what extent did a successful response to the performance task require students to integrate information and data in both narrative and quantitative forms? Explain.
3. Performance Task Administration
 - a. When did you administer the performance task?
 - b. Was the student's score on the assessment calculated in the final grade? If yes, what weight did it have?
4. Student Performance
 - a. Identify any consistent strengths you found in student performance.
 - b. Identify any consistent weaknesses you found in student performance.
 - c. (optional) If you reviewed the results with your students, what kind of comments did they make about it? Did they indicate whether they believe their FSU experience is preparing them to take assessments like the CLA?
5. Recommendation and follow up
 - a. Knowing that our students' performance on the CLA will be part of our institutional assessment, what will you do in the courses you teach to address the skills and competencies assessed by the CLA?
 - b. What recommendations would you offer for all faculty members?

Please submit your report on your project as soon as possible, but no later than May 1, 2009.